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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
RESETTLEMENT ADMINISTRATION
Land Utilization Division
Land Use Planning Section



BULLETIN OF FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAND USE

No. 21

Week Ending May 27, 1937

(Primarily for the information of Land Use Planning Personnel
of the Resettlement Administration and collaborating offices
and agencies.)

Legislatures - Regular Session

Colorado adjourned May 14	Ohio adjourned May 10
Nebraska adjourned May 15	South Carolina adjourned May 21

Legislatures - Special Session

Delaware - First Special Session adjourned May 18

Legislatures now in Special Session

Arizona	Minnesota
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Legislatures now in Regular Session

California	Massachusetts	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Michigan	Tennessee
Florida	Missouri	Texas
Illinois	New Hampshire	Wisconsin
	New Jersey	

I. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

H. J. R. 374. Mr. Gray (Indiana).
To amend the Constitution to grant Congress "power to regulate and
control agriculture and industry".
To Committee on Judiciary, May 20.

HYDRO ELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT

H. R. 7010. Mr. Mott.
To authorize the completion and maintenance of Bonneville Dam, Ore-
gon. Electrical energy generated and not used for navigation faci-

lities may be sold, preference to be given municipalities.
To Committee on Rivers and Harbors, May 12.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

H. R. 7091. Mr. Martin.

To give consent and approval of Congress to the extension of terms and provisions of the present Rio Grande compact between the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas, respecting the use of the waters of the Rio Grande River.

To Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, May 17.

II. STATE LEGISLATION

(Includes only outstanding proposals likely to be of interest to Legislatures other than the one in which the bill is introduced.)

DRAINAGE, IRRIGATION, AND FLOOD CONTROL

Massachusetts. H. B. 1860. Mr. Luitwieler.

To provide for the acquisition of lands, easements and rights of way for flood control purposes in the Merrimack River in compliance with the interstate compact for flood control in the Merrimack River Valley.

Introduced May 3.

Massachusetts. H. B. 1861. Mr. Baylies.

To provide for the acquisition of lands, easements and rights of way for flood control purposes in the Connecticut River in compliance with the interstate compact for flood control in the Connecticut River Valley.

Introduced May 3.

New Hampshire. H. B. 466. Committee on Rules.

To comply with the interstate compact for flood control in the Connecticut River Valley by authorizing the acquisition of lands, easements and rights of way essential for flood control purposes.
To Judiciary Committee, May 12.

Ohio. H. B. 205. Mr. Kilpatrick.

To authorize the county commissioner to cooperate with state and federal authorities to regulate, create and construct a complete and coordinating system of water conservation and flood control.
Approved May 17.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Delaware. S. B. 127. Mr. Steele.

To create a State Park Commission of 5 members for the purpose of establishing and maintaining state parks and recreational areas. The Commission shall acquire necessary lands to carry out the purposes of the Act.

Approved May 11.

Maryland. H. B. 597. Mr. Bennett.

To establish a Department of Drainage under the State Board of Agriculture administered by the Professor of Agricultural Engineering (designated State Drainage Engineer) of the University of Maryland. Such Drainage Engineer shall promote and encourage the drainage of agricultural lands, correlate activities of local drainage organizations and cooperate with state and federal agencies for a permanent program of improved drainage.

Approved May 18, Laws 1937, Chapter 465.

Michigan. S. B. 300. Mr. Brooks.

To create a State Department of Taxation in lieu of the State Tax Commission which is to be abolished. The Department shall have general supervision of the administration of the property tax laws of the State.

To State Affairs Committee, May 6.

Texas. H. J. R. 53. Mr. Patterson.

To amend the Constitution to authorize the legislature to prescribe rules and regulations for the consolidation of counties.

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Illinois. S. B. 63. Mr. Monroe.

To create an Interstate Flood Relief and Prevention Commission to cooperate with public and private agencies of other states, Council of State Governments, and the Federal Government for the formulation of definite plans for flood control and prevention.

Approved May 7.

Massachusetts. S. B. 426.

To ratify a compact with Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont, relative to flood control in the Connecticut River Valley.

Introduced May 3.

Massachusetts. S. B. 427.

To ratify a compact with New Hampshire relative to flood control in the Merrimack River Valley.

Introduced May 3.

New Hampshire. H. B. 467. Committee on Rules.

To ratify a compact with Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, relative to flood control in the Connecticut River Valley.

To Committee on Judiciary, May 12.

Ohio. H. B. 450.

To authorize the negotiation of a treaty with states of the Ohio Valley for the control of pollution of the waters of the Ohio River.

Approved May 12.

LAND USE

Nevada. S. B. 126.

To authorize the creation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling erosion. This Law is similar to the Standard Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Department of Agriculture. As yet there

is no appropriation for carrying out the Act.

Approved March 30, Laws 1937, Chapter 212.

Ohio. H. B. 615. Mr. Whetro.

To authorize the Director of Highways to enter into agreements with the United States relative to the construction and repair of highways.

Approved May 14.

Ohio. S. B. 129.

To authorize the Director of Highways to cooperate with the federal government in the construction of rural post roads.

Approved May 17.

South Carolina. H. B. 1001. McCormick Delegation.

To authorize the McCormick Delegation in the General Assembly to elect or appoint a County Cooperative Soil Conservation Board of 3 members for the purpose of promoting the control of erosion and other farm practices which will improve farm land and increase the taxable value thereof. The Board is authorized to requisition the County Commissioners to borrow now exceeding \$5,000 to purchase a new tractor and grading and terracing equipment, such equipment to be rented to farmers.

Approved April 30.

South Carolina. H. B. 1012. Lexington Delegation.

To authorize the Lexington Delegation in the General Assembly to appoint a County Cooperative Soil Conservation Board of 3 members for the purpose of promoting the control of erosion and other farm practices which will improve farm land, increase the taxable value thereof in cooperation with farmers and land owners. The County Commissioners are authorized to borrow not exceeding \$10,000 to carry out a Soil Conservation Program to be planned by the Soil Conservation Board.

Approved April 30.

South Carolina. S. B. 523. Agriculture Committee.

To authorize the creation of Soil Conservation Districts for the purpose of engaging in conserving soil resources and preventing and controlling soil erosion. This Law is similar to the Standard Soil Conservation Districts Act of the Department of Agriculture. Lands acquired by the districts are declared tax exempt.

Approved April 17.

Texas. H. B. 611. Mr. Stevenson.

To authorize the State Highway Department to cooperate with the Bureau of Public Roads for the improvement of roads with Federal funds under the Federal Aid Highway Act as amended in 1936 (Public 686, 74th Congress).

Approved April 26.

Texas. S. B. 284. Mr. Clemens.

Corporations may be formed for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, and engaging in the business of grading, constructing terraces, and drainage structures, and all other forms of dirt construction work.

Approved May 1.

Wisconsin. A. B. 885. Joint Committee on Finance.

To create a "Settler Relocation Committee" consisting of the State Director of Regional Planning (Chairman), representatives of Conservation Department, Highway Commission, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Health Officer, Dean of College of Agriculture, with power to investigate cases of governmental costs of roads, schools and public services resulting from isolated settlers located in restricted districts under zoning ordinances, cooperate with county boards relative to county forest lands and zoning ordinances for abatement of non-conforming uses. The committee may purchase lands held by isolated settlers and shall become state forest lands to be administered by the Conservation Commission. It may cooperate with the Federal government for the purchase of submarginal lands in zoned counties. Provision is made for a settler relocating fund to be used for purchasing lands, to be augmented by savings in road, school and service costs saved by relocations.

Introduced May 19.

PLANNING

Florida. H. B. 963. Mr. Holt.

S. B. 588. Mr. Graham.

To enable the Board of County Commissioners of any county having a population of not less than 180,000 at the last state census to zone outside the limits of municipalities for the purpose of regulating and restricting the height, number of stories, and size of buildings and other structures on land and water, the percentage of lot that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts and other open spaces, the density of population, the use of land for junk yards and automobile trailer camps, and the location and use of buildings, structures and land for trade, industry, and other specific uses. It is provided that the majority of the members of the Zoning Commission shall be appointed from the County Planning Council, in case such a body exists; that the Board of Adjustment shall be appointed by the Governor; and that the County Engineer or other employee of the County Board may be designated to administer the zoning regulations. Violations are punishable by a fine of not over \$500, or by imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both; and the County Board is authorized to appropriate not exceeding \$10,000 yearly for carrying out the purposes of the Act. Otherwise, the Bill substantially follows the "Standard State Zoning Enabling Act" of the Department of Commerce.

Introduced May 3.

Massachusetts. S. B. 418. Rules Committee.

To provide for an investigation by the State Planning Board and prepare a comprehensive plan for the Merrimack Valley. The results of the investigation with recommendations and drafts of legislation are to be presented to the legislature by December 1, 1937.

Introduced April 29.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Texas. H. B. 600. Mr. Lucas.

To appropriate \$1,080,000 as a supplement to the funds appropriated

by the forty-fourth legislature (Laws 1935, Chapter 350) for assistance to school districts.

Approved May 7.

PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Ohio. S. B. 353. Mr. Laird.

To consent to the acquisition by the United States of lands necessary for the establishment, consolidation and extension of national forests, flood control, and soil conservation work.

Approved May 13.

Pennsylvania. S. B. 1137. Mr. Kahle.

To amend the Constitution to authorize the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of acquiring and developing land for state forest purposes.

To Committee on Constitutional Changes, May 3.

REAL PROPERTY

Florida. S. B. 673. Mr. Beacham.

H. B. 1127.

To create housing authorities in cities and counties for the purpose of providing dwelling accommodations for persons of low income. The property of such authorities, including securities, is declared to be exempt from taxation and assessments, but the housing authorities are authorized to make payments upon agreement with local political subdivisions in lieu of taxes.

To Committee on Cities and Towns, May 6.

Florida. S. B. 675. Mr. Beacham.

H. B. 1128.

To authorize cities and counties to aid housing projects by furnishing parks, streets, improvements and facilities. The political subdivisions may contract with the authority for the payment of such services and facilities.

To Committee on Cities and Towns, May 6.

Nebraska. Bill 573. Mr. John Adams, Jr.

To authorize cities and counties to aid housing projects by furnishing parks, streets, improvements and facilities. The political subdivisions may contract with the authority for the payment of such services and facilities.

Approved May 18.

Ohio. H. B. 575. Mr. Doyle.

Authorizing cities and counties to aid housing projects by furnishing parks, streets, improvements and facilities. The political subdivisions may contract with the authority for payment of such services and facilities.

Approved May 8.

Oklahoma. H. B. 77. Legal Advisory Committee.

No corporation may be entitled to or hold any real estate outside the cities and towns not necessary and proper for the transaction

of the business for which the corporation is chartered. Any such real estate acquired by any means shall be sold within 7 years of the date of the acquisition.
Law without Approval, May 10.

H. A. Hockley

